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Interim Directory of Legislative Committees and Activities

**Includes Other Committees
on Which Legislators Serve**

2003-2004

Prepared by
Montana Legislative Services Division
P.O. Box 201706
State Capitol, Room 110
Helena, Montana 59620-1706



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<i>PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</i>
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Legislative Council and Legislative Services Division

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/administration/2003_2004/leg_council/default.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, MCA

The Legislative Council is a 12-member bipartisan committee composed of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives, including the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leaders from each house.¹

The Legislative Council generally oversees the activities of the Legislative Services Division (LSD). Other statutory duties include:

- adopting rules governing personnel management for the Legislative Branch, including rules for employee classification and pay with the concurrence of the Legislative Audit and Legislative Finance Committees;
- appointing the Executive Director of the LSD;
- providing general supervision of and policy direction to the Code Commissioner;
- selecting studies to be conducted during the interim and assigning the studies to the appropriate interim committees;
- establishing time schedules and deadlines for interim committees, including dates for requesting legislation and completing interim work;
- assisting the LSD in providing oversight of the state governmental broadcasting service;
- serving as the appropriate legislative committee for consultation with the Board of Land Commissioners regarding the disposal, sale, or exchange of certain state lands;
- serving as a long-range building committee to recommend to the Legislature and the Montana Department of Administration construction and remodeling priorities for the State Capitol;

¹A member serving based on the member's leadership position who is in the last biennium of service because of term limits may appoint a legislator who is not term-limited to serve in his or her place.

- appointing legislators to serve as members of interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities, based on recommendations made by legislative leadership; and
- approving the biennial Legislative Branch information technology plan.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

House Members

Rep. Kim Gillan, Presiding Officer (D)
 750 Judicial Ave.
 Billings, MT 59105-2130
 Ph: 248-6063
 glonky@aol.com

Rep. Jeff Laszloffy (R)
 3165 Hwy 212 South
 Laurel, MT 59044-8911
 Ph: 628-4705
 repjeff@hotmail.com

Rep. Roy Brown (R)
 P.O. Box 22273
 Billings, MT 59104-2273
 Ph: 252-5554
 brown.roy@attbi.com

Rep. Doug Mood (R)
 P.O. Box 42
 Seeley Lake, MT 59868-0042
 Ph: 677-2291
 d_mood@hotmail.com

Rep. George Golie (D)
 316 20th Ave. South
 Great Falls, MT 59405-4131
 Ph: 727-3245
 ggolie@in-tch.com

Rep. Dave Wanzenried (D)
 903 Sky Dr.
 Missoula, MT 59804-3121
 Ph: 543-2775
 davewanz@montana.com

Senate Members

Sen. Bob Keenan, Vice Presiding Officer (R)
 P.O. Box 697
 Bigfork, MT 59911-0697
 Ph: 837-4989
 bob@bigforkinn.com

Sen. Brent Cromley (D)
 P.O. Box 2545
 Billings, MT 59103-2545
 Ph: 252-3512
 senatorbrc@hotmail.com

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
 535 Livingston Ave.
 Missoula, MT 59801-8003
 Ph: 728-7723

Sen. Duane Grimes (R)
 4 Hole in the Wall
 Clancy, MT 59634-9516
 Ph: 933-8538

Sen. Jon Tester (D)
709 Son Lane
Big Sandy, MT 59520-8443
Ph: 378-3182
jontester@yahoo.com

Sen. Fred Thomas (R)
3566 Holly Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870-6634
Wk: 777-5005, Hm: 777-5000
fthomas@wsi-insurance.com

Assigned Studies

SJR 32 Study the costs and availability of liability insurance for health care facilities and health care providers associated with health care facilities and report the findings of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Lois Menzies, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division

Greg Petesch, Director of Legal Services Office, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

SJR 32 Staff

Dave Bohyer, Director of Office of Research and Policy Analysis, Legislative Services Division

John MacMaster, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Legislative Services Division

Lois Menzies, Executive Director
State Capitol, Room 110
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
Ph: 444-3064 FAX: 444-3036
lomenzies@state.mt.us

The Legislative Services Division (LSD) is an independent, nonpartisan, impartial agency of the Legislative Branch, performing those duties and functions assigned by law or as directed or requested by legislators or legislative committees.

The LSD is divided into five offices: the Central Services Office, the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, the Legal Services Office, the Office of Legislative Information Technology, and the Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

The **Central Services Office** staff is responsible for general LSD administration, purchasing, publication distribution, payroll and personnel matters, final preparation of LSD documents (including engrossing and enrolling of bills and preparation of introduced bills), legislative printing and distribution, and legislator information and telecommunications.

Central Services Office

Lois Menzies, Executive Director

Karen Berger, Financial Services Manager

Lenore Adams, Purchasing & Inventory Coordinator

Debbie Bunker, Payroll, Benefits, & Personnel Specialist

Jennifer Murray, Accounting Technician

Kevin Hayes, Publications Coordinator/Session Information Officer

Ann Patten, Documents Services Manager

Kip Davis, Proofreader/Legislative Documents Technician

The **Office of Research and Policy Analysis** and the **Legal Services Office** conduct general and specialized research. Staff from both offices provide professional support to session and interim committees, draft legislation, prepare research reports, and provide information on the Legislature to the public.

The Office of Research and Policy Analysis has primary responsibility for staffing interim committees, providing reference services, and staffing a library that provides access to items of special interest to legislators and Legislative Branch staff. The Legal Services Office is responsible for compiling, updating, editing, and indexing the Montana Code Annotated and preparing the annotations under the supervision of the Code Commissioner, who is also the Director of Legal Services. The Legal Services Office is also required to review all proposed initiatives for compliance with bill drafting standards.

Office of Research and Policy Analysis

Dave Bohyer, Director
Connie Erickson, Research Analyst
Susan Fox, Research Analyst
Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst
Leanne Kurtz, Research Analyst
Jeff Martin, Research Analyst
Pat Murdo, Research Analyst
Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Librarian
Angie Murray, Library Technician
Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary
Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary
Marsha Sager, Information Officer
Karen Kueffler, Administrative
Clerk/Session Supervisor of
Legislative Printing and
Distribution

Legal Services Office

Greg Petesch, Director/Code
Commissioner
Bart Campbell, Attorney
Lee Heiman, Attorney
Valencia Lane, Attorney
John MacMaster, Attorney
Eddye McClure, Attorney
David Niss, Attorney
Doug Sternberg, Legal Researcher
Carol Ann Jacobsen, Chief Editor
Sally Bush, Senior Editor
Connie Dixon, Editor
Nadine Fox, Indexer

The **Office of Legislative Information Technology** includes computer network and personal computer support personnel, systems analysts, and programmer/analysts who develop and maintain the programs and applications used by the Legislative Branch, including an online bill status system and the branch website.

Office of Legislative Information Technology

Hank Trenk, Director

Applications Development

Steve Eller, Applications Development Supervisor
Jim Gordon, Systems Analyst
Alysa Eaton, Programmer/Analyst
Mark Javornik, Programmer/Analyst
Marjorie Peterson, Programmer/Analyst

Network Services

Jeanette Nordahl, Network Manager
Rick Peaslee, Network Administrator
Dustin Temple, Network Administrator
Jeff Thomas, Network Administrator
Steve Larsen, Network Support Specialist

The **Legislative Environmental Policy Office** provides staff services to the Environmental Quality Council and is described in detail under that committee.

LSD staff may be contacted by e-mail. In *most* cases, state employee e-mail addresses are composed of the first letter of the staff person's first name (in some cases, the first and second letter of the first name) followed by the last name, then "@state.mt.us". Examples are:
dbohyer@state.mt.us, or
lheiman@state.mt.us.

Legislative Audit Committee and Legislative Audit Division

<http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/audit/committe.asp>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 13, MCA

The Legislative Audit Committee is a bicameral and bipartisan constitutional committee of the Montana Legislature. It consists of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Committee on Committees and the Speaker of the House, respectively. The Audit Committee appoints, consults with, and advises the Legislative Auditor. The Audit Committee reviews the audit reports submitted by the Legislative Auditor, releases the audit reports to the public, and serves as the conduit between the Legislative Auditor and the Legislature.

The Audit Committee meets about six times during the interim to review staff audit reports and fraud hotline results, review personnel and administrative procedures in the Legislative Audit Division (LAD), and generally oversee the Division's activities.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Jeff Pattison, Presiding Officer (R)

123 Cain Rd.
Glasgow, MT 59230
Ph: 367-9316
pattison@nemontel.net

Rep. Tim Callahan (D)

3409 5th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-3543
Wk: 454-6880, Hm: 454-0319
intic@sofast.net

Rep. Dee Brown (R)

P.O. Box 444
Hungry Horse, MT 59919-0444
Ph: 387-9393
repdee@yahoo.com

Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)

4813 U.S. Hwy 12 West
Helena, MT 59601-9694
Ph: 442-6740
haljacobsonhd54@attbi.com

Rep. John Musgrove (D)
810 8th St.
Havre, MT 59501-4127
Ph: 265-1787
musgrove@hi-line.net

Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
8920 MT Hwy 200
Wolf Creek, MT 59648-8639
Ph: 562-3502
ripleys@3rivers.net

Senate Members

Sen. Jim Elliott, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
100 Trout Creek Rd.
Trout Creek, MT 59874-9609
Ph: 827-3671
jim@jimelliott.org

Sen. John Esp (R)
P.O. Box 1024
Big Timber, MT 59011-1024
Ph: 932-5662
jesp@mcn.net

Sen. John Cobb (R)
P.O. Box 388
Augusta, MT 59410-0388
Ph: 562-3670

Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
1201 N Excelsior Ave.
Butte, MT 59701-8505
Ph: 782-0332
danwharrington@in-tch.com

Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
713 Pyrite Court
Helena, MT 59601-5877
Wk: 449-8611, Hm: 443-0144
cooneyemail@aol.com

Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
3614 Crater Lake Ave.
Billings, MT 59102-7732
Ph: 252-5144
coreystapleton@attbi.com

Committee Staff (Legislative Audit Division)

Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor
State Capitol, Room 160
P.O. Box 201705
Helena, MT 59620-1705
Ph: 444-3122 FAX: 444-9784
sseacat@state.mt.us

The Audit Committee appoints the Legislative Auditor, who heads the Legislative Audit Division (LAD). LAD staff monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies and audit agencies' financial affairs. The LAD also conducts information system audits to determine the effectiveness of the state's computer resources.

Specifically, an audit of a state agency is conducted to determine whether the agency is efficiently carrying out the activities and programs authorized by the Legislature, whether the agency is properly managing expenditures, using funds only to further authorized activities and in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, whether the agency is properly accounting for all revenues, receipts, and expenditures arising from its activities, whether the agency is adequately safeguarding and controlling its assets and using them efficiently, and whether the agency is accurately reporting and fully disclosing its financial status and the scope of its activities and operations to the Governor, the Legislature, and central control agencies.

Section 5-13-311, MCA, provides for a toll-free hotline to the LAD that Montana residents may use in reporting fraud, waste, and abuse in state government. The LAD is responsible for maintaining the hotline, reviewing all calls received, keeping a record of each call, analyzing and verifying the information relayed in the call, and potentially conducting additional work to document the activity. The Legislative Auditor is required to periodically update the Committee on the use of the hotline, results of the reviews, verifications, referrals, and any corrective action taken by the appropriate agency. The hotline number is 1-800-222-4446 outside Helena and 444-4446 from a Helena location.

Administrative Staff

Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor
John Northey, Legal Counsel
C.D. Avery, Audit Development Manager
Jan Orsello, Administrative Support Manager
Kathy Covert, Word Processing Technician
Bev Holnbeck, Word Processing Technician
Katie Bowlds, Receptionist/Administrative Aide

Financial Compliance Audit Staff

Jim Gillett, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Pearl Allen, Audit Manager
Jeane Carstensen-Garrett, Audit Manager
John Fine, Audit Manager
Geri Hoffman, Audit Manager
Jim Manning, Audit Manager
Vickie Rauser, Audit Manager
Laurie Barrett, Senior Auditor
Chris Darragh, Senior Auditor

Laurie Evans, Senior Auditor
Cindy Jorgenson, Senior Auditor
Emy Neuman-Javornik, Senior Auditor
Paul O'Loughlin, Senior Auditor
Jennifer Solem, Senior Auditor
Danielle Gamradt, Auditor
Melissa Heinert, Auditor
Brenda Kedish, Auditor
Hollie Koehler, Auditor
Angela Lang, Auditor
Amber Long, Auditor
Laura Norris, Auditor
Alexa O'Dell, Auditor
Sonia Powell, Auditor
Jeff Tamblyn, Auditor
Joyce Weber, Auditor

Performance Audit Staff

Jim Pellegrini, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Angie Grove, Audit Manager
Jim Nelson, Audit Manager
Mike Wingard, Audit Manager
Lisa Blanford, Senior Auditor
Tom Cooper, Senior Auditor
Joe Murray, Senior Auditor
Kent Rice, Senior Auditor
Andrew Geiger, Auditor
Angus Maciver, Auditor
Monica Smith, Auditor
Kent Wilcox, Auditor

Information Systems Audit Staff

Tori Hunthausen, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Chuck Nemec, Senior Auditor
Ida L. Sajor, Senior Auditor
David Nowacki, Auditor
Jessica Splem, Auditor
Victor Valgenti, Auditor

Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Fiscal Division

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/fiscal/2005_biennium/2005_lfc.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 12, MCA

The Legislative Finance Committee consists of four members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee appointed by that committee's chair, two members of the Senate appointed at large by the Committee on Committees, four members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee appointed by that committee's chair, and two members of the House appointed at large by the Speaker.

The Finance Committee appoints a Legislative Fiscal Analyst whose duties are to head the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), provide information regarding state government financial matters, assist in estimating revenue from state taxes, fees, and other sources, analyze the executive budget, assist the Revenue and Transportation Committee in performing its revenue-estimating duties, and generally assist the Legislature in all matters of compiling and analyzing financial information.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Gary Forrester, Presiding Officer (D)
2527 Gardiner St. #R8
Billings, MT 59101-6702
Ph: 259-7243

Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
321 Lakeview Dr.
Polson, MT 59860-9317
Ph: 883-2395
repjohn@montana.com

Rep. Rosalie Buzzas (D)
233 University Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801-4351
Wk: 532-9827, Hm: 728-0289
repbuzzas@hotmail.com

Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
HC 77, Box A-14
Brockway, MT 59214-9701
Ph: 485-2372

Rep. Dave Lewis (R)
5871 Collins Rd.
Helena, MT 59602-9584
Ph: 458-5511
davelewisd@aol.com

Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
1626 Heath St.
Huntley, MT 59037-9137
Ph: 348-2000
monica@lindeen.net

Senate Members

Sen. Keith Bales, Vice Presiding Officer (R)
HC 39, Box 33
Otter, MT 59062-9703
Ph: 784-2487
bri@rangeweb.net

Sen. Jon Tester (D)
709 Son Lane
Big Sandy, MT 59520-8443
Ph: 378-3182
jontester@yahoo.com

Sen. Rick Laible (R)
529 Moose Hollow Rd.
Victor, MT 59875-9303
Ph: 961-4200
ricklaible@aol.com

Sen. Joe Tropila (D)
209 2nd St. NW
Great Falls, MT 59404-1301
Ph: 453-1124

Sen. Emily Stonington (D)
15042 Kelly Canyon Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715-9625
Ph: 587-9332
emstony47@aol.com

Sen. Tom Zook (R)
HC 40, Box 6591
Miles City, MT 59301-9806
Ph: 421-5577

Committee Staff (Legislative Fiscal Division)

Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
State Capitol, Room 110A
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711
Ph: 444-2986 FAX: 444-3036
cschenck@state.mt.us

LFD staff provide research and fiscal analysis support to interim committees that address state agency funding or budgeting.

Revenue and Taxation Policy

Terry Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Roger Lloyd, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Jim Standaert, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Cathy Duncan, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Mike Allen, Information Specialist

Expenditure Policy

Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Pam Joehler, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Lois Steinbeck, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Greg DeWitt, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Pat Gervais, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Gary Hamel, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Todd Younkin, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Associate Fiscal Analyst
Associate Fiscal Analyst

Jon Moe, Fiscal Specialist
Cindy Amundson, Administrative Support Manager
Diane McDuffie, Legislative Secretary

<i>PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</i>
<i>PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT</i>
<i>OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE</i>
<i>INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS</i>

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/child_fam/default.asp

Section 5-5-225, MCA, provides:

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services (CFHHS) Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the entities attached to that department for administrative purposes.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

- House Human Services
- House Appropriations
- Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety
- Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Edith Clark (R)

P.O. Box 34
Sweetgrass, MT 59484-0034
Ph: 937-6905
ejclark@northerntel.net

Rep. Carol Gibson (D)

2518 Broadwater Ave.
Billings, MT 59102-4608
Ph: 656-0384
jcgibson@imt.net

Rep. Eve Franklin (D)

2702 Dawn Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59404-3634
Ph: 761-6815

Rep. Don Roberts (R)

5414 Walter Hagen Dr.
Billings, MT 59106-1007
Wk: 652-8411, Hm: 652-3536
dlroberts@attbi.com

Senate Members

Sen. John Esp (R)
P.O. Box 1024
Big Timber, MT 59011-1024
Ph: 932-5662
jesp@mcn.net

Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
985 Walsh Rd.
Columbia Falls, MT 59912-9044
Ph: 892-7602
oneil@centurytel.net

Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
P.O. Box 556
Lodge Grass, MT 59050-0556
Ph: 639-2561

Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
4029 6th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-3746
Ph: 452-7215
trudisd21@yahoo.com

Assigned Studies

HJR 3 Examine child abuse and neglect proceedings in order to determine how to provide representation for indigent families and to determine the earliest opportunity for prevention and intervention.

SJR 11 Study the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and of prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

Staff

Susan Fox, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Greg Petesch, Director of Legal Services Office, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Economic Affairs

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/econ_affairs/default.asp

Section 5-5-223, MCA, provides:

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Department of Commerce
- Montana Department of Labor and Industry
- Montana Department of Livestock
- Montana Office of the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner
- Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

- House Business and Labor
- House Agriculture
- House Appropriations
- House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications
- Senate Business and Labor
- Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
- Senate Finance and Claims
- Senate Energy and Telecommunications

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Joe McKenney, Presiding
Officer (R)
1140 18th Ave. SW
Great Falls, MT 59404-3426
Wk: 452-2051, Hm: 452-0326
joem@montana.com

Rep. Jim Keane (D)
2131 Wall St.
Butte, MT 59701-5527
Ph: 723-8378

Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
281 McKeown Lane
Cardwell, MT 59721-9611
Wk: 287-3282, Hm: 287-5285
smendenhall@ineva.com

Rep. Nancy Rice Fritz (D)
1817 Daniel Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802-4926
Ph: 549-6712
ricefritz@montana.com

Senate Members

Sen. Glenn Roush, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
P.O. Box 185
Cut Bank, MT 59427-0185
Ph: 873-4452

Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)
1223 7th Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401-1613
Wk: 453-6784, Hm: 452-6966
jmangan@mountainpeaksinc.com

Sen. Sherm Anderson (R)
P.O. Box 311
Deer Lodge, MT 59722-0311
Ph: 846-2353
logging@montana.com

Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
P.O. Box 210
Dayton, MT 59914-0210
Ph: 849-5281
taylor2@digisys.net

Assigned Studies

SJR 17 Study methods of simplifying laws related to workers' compensation and occupational diseases.

Staff

Pat Murdo, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Bart Campbell, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Eddy McClure, Attorney for SJR 17 Study, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Education and Local Government

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/edu_local_gov/default.asp

Section 5-5-224, MCA; provides:

The Education and Local Government Interim Committee acts a liaison with local governments and has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

- State Board of Education
- Board of Public Education
- Board of Regents of Higher Education
- Office of Public Instruction

The statute also states that the Committee shall:

- provide information to the Board of Regents in the following areas:
 - annual budget allocations;
 - annual goal statement development;
 - long-range planning;
 - outcome assessment programs; and
 - any other area that the Committee considers to have significant educational or fiscal policy impact;
- periodically review the success or failure of the University System in meeting its annual goals and long-range plans;
- periodically review the results of outcome assessment programs;
- develop mechanisms to ensure strict accountability of the revenue and expenditures of the University System;
- study and report to the Legislature on the advisability of adjustments to the mechanisms used to determine funding for the University System, including criteria for determining appropriate levels of funding;
- act as a liaison between both the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Board of Regents;
- encourage cooperation between the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Board of Regents;
- promote and strengthen local government through recognition of the principle that strong communities, with effective, democratic governmental institutions, are one of the best assurances of a strong Montana;
- bring together representatives of state and local government for consideration of common problems;
- provide a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy, and intergovernmental cooperation;

- identify and promote the most desirable allocation of state and local government functions, responsibilities, and revenue;
- promote concise, consistent, and uniform regulation for local government;
- coordinate and simplify laws, rules, and administrative practices in order to achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal and administrative relationships between and among state and local governments;
- review state mandates to local governments that are subject to 1-2-112 and 1-2-114 through 1-2-116;
- make recommendations to the Legislature, Executive Branch agencies, and local governing bodies concerning:
 - changes in statutes, rules, ordinances, and resolutions that will provide concise, consistent, and uniform guidance and regulations for local government;
 - changes in tax laws that will achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationships between levels of government;
 - methods of coordinating and simplifying competitive practices to achieve more orderly administrative relationships among levels of government; and
 - training programs and technical assistance for local government officers and employees that will promote effectiveness and efficiency in local government; and
- conduct interim studies as assigned.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Education
 House Local Government
 House Appropriations
 Senate Education and Cultural Resources
 Senate Local Government
 Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Joan Andersen (R)
RR 1, Box 1012
Fromberg, MT 59029-9701
Ph: 668-7405
joanv@wtp.net

Rep. Norman Ballantyne (D)
P.O. Box 293
Valier, MT 59486-0293
Wk: 279-3613, Hm: 279-3320
mrb@3rivers.net

Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
620 Riverview Dr. East
Great Falls, MT 59404-1637
Ph: 453-5274
suedickenson@yahoo.com

Rep. Tom Facey (D)
418 Plymouth St.
Missoula, MT 59801-4133
Wk: 542-4070, Hm: 728-6814
facey_tom@hotmail.com

Rep. Verdell Jackson (R)
555 Wagner Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901-8079
Ph: 756-8344
vjack@centurytel.net

Rep. Larry Lehman (R)
P.O. Box 184
Power, MT 59468-0184
Ph: 463-2381
lrlpower@3rivers.net

Senate Members

Sen. Gregory Barkus (R)
P.O. Box 2647
Kalispell, MT 59903-2467
Wk: 752-6212, Hm: 755-8362
gbarkus@dadco.com

Sen. William E. Glaser (R)
1402 Indian Creek Rd.
Huntley, MT 59037
Ph: 348-3000

Sen. Rick Laible (R)
529 Moose Hollow Rd.
Victor, MT 59875-9303
Ph: 961-4200
ricklaible@aol.com

Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)
1223 7th Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401-1613
Wk: 453-6784, Hm: 452-6966
jmangan@mountainpeaksinc.com

Sen. Don Ryan (D)
2101 7th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-2821
Ph: 761-3261
senatordonryan@msn.com

Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
100 Moon Lane
Butte, MT 59701-3975
Ph: 494-4708

Assigned Studies

HJR 37 Review the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and recommendations for legislation to revise the act so that it is clear, concise, logically organized, and in conformance with the Bill Drafting Manual and report the final results of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Connie Erickson, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Eddye McClure, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Energy and Telecommunications

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/energy_telecom/default.asp

Section 5-5-230, MCA, provides:

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Public Service Regulation and the entities attached to the department for administrative purposes.

Other Statutory Responsibilities:

Section 69-8-402, MCA, requires public utilities and cooperative utilities to submit annual summary reports of Universal System Benefits Programs to the committee.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Alan Olson, Presiding Officer (R)
18 Halfbreed Creek Rd.
Roundup, MT 59072-6524
Ph: 323-3341
ajolson@midrivers.com

Rep. Dave Gallik (D)
120 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, MT 59601-2911
Ph: 449-1366
gallik@in-tch.com

Rep. Dan Fuchs (R)
500 Josephine Dr. #11
Billings, MT 59105-2409
Ph: 252-8364
daniclint@aol.com

Rep. Gary Matthews (D)
1708 Main St.
Miles City, MT 59301-3652
Ph: 234-5696
matthews@midrivers.com

Senate Members

Sen. Emily Stonington, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
15042 Kelly Canyon Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715-9625
Ph: 587-9332
emstony47@aol.com

Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
2915 Illinois St.
Billings, MT 59102-0814
Ph: 245-7485
royalcjohnson@aol.com

Sen. Don Ryan (D)
2101 7th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-2821
Ph: 761-3261
senatordonryan@msn.com

Sen. Fred Thomas (R)
3566 Holly Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870-6634
Wk: 777-5005, Hm: 777-5000
fthomas@wsi-insurance.com

Assigned Studies

SJR 13 Investigate options for improving energy efficiency building codes laws and other energy efficiency and conservation practices and report the final results of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Mary Vandebosch, Resource Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Analyst/Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Environmental Quality Council and Legislative Environmental Policy Office

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/lepo/2003_2004/default.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 16, MCA
Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, MCA

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) is a 17-member committee created by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). In general, the EQC reviews and appraises state programs and activities related to the environment to ensure compliance with MEPA (Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, MCA). Other EQC statutory responsibilities include:

- administrative rule review, draft legislation review, and program evaluation and monitoring of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes;
- implementation of MEPA and oversight of state agency compliance with MEPA;
- maintenance of accurate environmental indicator data;
- water policy oversight;
- monitoring and reviewing state agency environmental and natural resource enforcement policies, recordkeeping, and prevention programs; and
- energy development and conservation monitoring.

Membership

The EQC consists of six senators, six representatives, four members of the public, and one nonvoting representative of the Governor. The House members are selected by the Speaker of the House and the Senate members are selected by the Committee on Committees. Two public members are selected by the President of the Senate with the concurrence of the Senate Minority Leader and two public members are selected by the Speaker of the House with the concurrence of the House Minority Leader. At least 50% of the Council's legislative members must be selected from the session standing committees that consider issues within the jurisdiction of the EQC.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Chris Harris, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
519 N Black Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715-3612
Ph: 582-0591
gallating@aol.com

Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
17600 MT Hwy 324
Dillon, MT 59725-9657
Ph: 681-3177
grt3177@montana.com

Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
P.O. Box 1165
Lame Deer, MT 59043-1165
Ph: 477-6602
norma@rangeweb.net

Rep. Paul Clark (D)
20 Fox Lane
Trout Creek, MT 59874-9510
Ph: 827-4440
pclarkhd72@yahoo.com

Rep. Don Hedges (R)
70 Singletree Rd.
Antelope, MT 59211
Ph: 286-5426
hedges@nemontel.net

Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Route 1, Box 2
Buffalo, MT 59418-9501
Wk: 473-2277; Hm: 374-2277
jpranch@ttc-cmc.net

Senate Members

Sen. Walter L. McNutt, Presiding Officer (R)
110 12th Ave. SW
Sidney, MT 59270-3614
Wk: 488-4400 Hm: 488-4966
walt@midrivers.com

Sen. Dan McGee (R)
1925 Pinyon Dr.
Laurel, MT 59044-9381
Ph: 628-6534

Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
P.O. Box 185
Cut Bank, MT 59427-0185
Ph: 873-4452

Sen. Robert Story (R)
133 Valley Creek Rd.
Park City, MT 59063-8040
Ph: 633-2746

Sen. Ken Toole (D)
P.O. Box 1462
Helena, MT 59624-1462
Ph: 442-3180
samt@mcn.net

Sen. Mike Wheat (D)
930 Stonegate Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715-2109
Wk: 587-4445, Hm: 587-0269
mwheat@cokwheatlaw.com

Public Members

Mr. Tom Ebzery
1500 Poly Dr., Suite 105
Billings, MT 59102-1748
Wk: 245-4881, Hm: 656-8398
tebzery@wtp.net

Ms. Ellen Porter
Roseburg Forest Products
P.O. Box 4007
Missoula, MT 59806
Wk: 728-3910, Hm: 251-4611
ellenp@rfpco.com

Ms. Julia Page
P.O. Box 608
Gardiner, MT 59030
Wk: 848-7777, Hm: 848-7571
jlp@montanadsl.net

Mr. Howard F. Strause
P.O. Box 2608
Great Falls, MT 59403
Wk: 727-8466, Hm: 727-7516
hfs@transedge.com

Governor's Representative

Mr. Todd O'Hair
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-3111
tohair@state.mt.us

Assigned Studies

HJR 4 Investigate options for improving the supply and distribution of water in Montana and evaluate the water storage policy established in 85-1-703, MCA, and require that the final results of the study be reported to the 59th Legislature and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

HJR 35 Study Montana's share of water from the interstate tributaries pursuant to the Yellowstone River Compact.

HJR 40 Study issues associated with water rights for private ponds for fish, wildlife, recreational, wetland, aesthetic, and gravel mining uses; and report the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study to the 59th Legislature and the Governor.

HJR 43 Study the surface water and ground water impacts of the abandoned Zortman and Landusky Mine sites on the Milk and Missouri River Watersheds and the effectiveness of the state reclamation efforts at the Zortman and Landusky Mine sites in protecting the watersheds and report the results to the 59th Legislature.

Council Staff (Legislative Environmental Policy Office)

Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Analyst

State Capitol, Room 171

P.O. Box 201704

Helena, MT 59620-1704

Ph: 444-3742

FAX: 444-3971

teverts@state.mt.us

The EQC appoints a Legislative Environmental Analyst, subject to approval by the Legislative Council, who heads the Legislative Environmental Policy Office (LEPO). LEPO is under the general administration of the Legislative Services Division and provides staff support to the EQC.

The LEPO staff provides impartial, nonpolitical environmental and natural resource information to the EQC, the Legislature, and the public. Staff duties include researching and writing reports, organizing public meetings and hearings, drafting legislation, and conducting studies assigned by the Legislature. The LEPO staff also serve as committee staff to several standing committees during legislative sessions.

Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Krista Lee Evans, Resource Policy Analyst

Larry Mitchell, Resource Policy Analyst

Mary Vandebosch, Resource Policy Analyst

Maureen Theisen, Research and Publications

Law and Justice

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/law_justice/default.asp

Section 5-5-226, MCA, provides:

The Law and Justice Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Corrections and the Montana Department of Justice and the entities attached to those departments for administrative purposes. The Committee also acts as a liaison with the Judiciary.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

- House Judiciary
- House Appropriations
- Senate Judiciary
- Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Gail Gutsche (D)
1530 Cooper St.
Missoula, MT 59802-2220
Wk: 543-3747, Hm: 728-0566
gutsche@wildrockies.org

Rep. Diane Rice (R)
P.O. Box 216
Harrison, MT 59735-0216
Ph: 685-3468
drice@3rivers.net

Rep. Michael Lange (R)
208 Fair Park Dr.
Billings, MT 59102-5734
Ph: 651-2084
mlange6@hotmail.com

Rep. Jim Shockley (R)
P.O. Box 608
Victor, MT 59875-0608
Ph: 642-3817

Rep. John Parker (D)
P.O. Box 558
Great Falls, MT 59403-0558
Ph: 454-6915
parkmont@hotmail.com

Rep. Frank Smith (D)
P.O. Box 729
Poplar, MT 59255-0729
Wk: 768-3303, Hm: 768-3841
clairena@nemontel.net

Senate Members

Sen. Brent Cromley (D)
P.O. Box 2545
Billings, MT 59103-2545
Ph: 252-3512
senatorbrc@hotmail.com

Sen. Duane Grimes (R)
4 Hole in the Wall
Clancy, MT 59634-9516
Wk: 443-3256, Hm: 933-8538

Sen. Dan McGee (R)
1925 Pinyon Dr.
Laurel, MT 59044-9381
Ph: 628-6534

Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
P.O. Box 556
Lodge Grass, MT 59050-0556
Ph: 639-2561

Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
3325 W Cedar Meadow Lane
Manhattan, MT 59741
Wk: 388-5788, Hm: 282-7477
perrysd16@aol.com

Sen. Mike Wheat (D)
930 Stonegate Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715-2109
Wk: 587-4445, Hm: 587-0269
mwheat@cokwheatlaw.com

Assigned Studies

SJR 31 Study juvenile probation and determine whether any changes in its administration are appropriate.

Staff

Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Valencia Lane, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Legislative Consumer Committee and Consumer Counsel

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/administration/consumer_counsel/default.asp

Constitutional and Statutory Citation:

Article XIII, section 2, Montana Constitution; Title 5, chapter 15, MCA

The Consumer Counsel represents Montana public utility and transportation consumers before the Montana Public Service Commission, state and federal courts, and administrative agencies in matters concerning public utility regulation. The Consumer Counsel, a position required by the Montana Constitution, is appointed by the Legislative Consumer Committee.

The Committee is required to meet at least quarterly and generally convenes eight to ten times per year. Meetings involve reports on Consumer Counsel staff activities, review and status updates of current cases, and review of contracts with expert witnesses. Two senators and two representatives, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees and the Speaker of the House, respectively, serve on the Committee.

Restructuring of the electric and natural gas utility industries is an issue of particular interest to the Committee, especially as utility rates are affected, and members will be monitoring the progress of the deregulation.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Gary Matthews, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
1708 Main St.
Miles City, MT 59301-3652
Ph: 234-5696
matthews@midrivers.com

Rep. Alan Olson (R)
18 Halfbreed Creek Rd.
Roundup, MT 59072-6524
Ph: 323-3341
ajolson@midrivers.com

Senate Members

**Sen. Walter L. McNutt, Presiding
Officer (R)**
110 12th Ave. SW
Sidney, MT 59270-3614
Ph: 488-4966
walt@midrivers.com

Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
100 Moon Lane
Butte, MT 59701-3975
Ph: 494-4708

Legislative Consumer Counsel Staff

Robert A. Nelson, Consumer Counsel
616 Helena Ave., Suite 300
P.O. Box 201703
Helena, MT 59620-1703
Ph: 444-2771 FAX: 444-2760

Frank E. Buckley, Utility Analyst
Lawrence P. Nordell, Economist
Mary Wright, Attorney
Mandi Shulund, Secretary

Revenue and Transportation

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/rev_trans/default.asp

Section 5-5-227, MCA, provides:

The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Revenue and the Montana Department of Transportation and the entities attached to those departments for administrative purposes.

The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee must have prepared by December 1 for introduction during each regular session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of revenue projected to be available for legislative appropriation.

Other sections outlining duties of the Revenue and Transportation Committee

5-12-302, MCA

15-1-230, MCA

15-6-218, MCA

15-30-1114, MCA

15-31-322, MCA

15-70-234, MCA

17-7-140, MCA

60-2-135, MCA

61-10-141, MCA

69-3-1409, MCA

Section 1, Chapter 328, Laws of 2003

Section 13, Chapter 612, Laws of 2003 (p. A-9, House Bill No. 2)

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Taxation

House Transportation

House Appropriations

Senate Taxation

Senate Highways and Transportation

Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Eileen Carney, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
P.O. Box 1193
Libby, MT 59923-1193
Ph: 293-6407
jecarney@libby.org

Rep. Joe Balyeat (R)
6909 Rising Eagle Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715-8621
Ph: 586-1838
joebalyeat@yahoo.com

Rep. Ronald Devlin (R)
P.O. Box 186
Terry, MT 59349-0186
Ph: 486-5533
rndvl@midrivers.com

Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
P.O. Box 1566
Helena, MT 59624-1566
Wk: 442-5506, Hm: 442-2937
kaufmann@mt.net

Rep. Karl Waitschies (R)
P.O. Box A-18
Peerless, MT 59253
Ph: 725-3242

Rep. Bill Wilson (D)
1305 2nd Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401-3217
Ph: 452-7866

Senate Members

Sen. Robert Story, Presiding Officer (R)
133 Valley Creek Rd.
Park City, MT 59063-8040
Ph: 633-2746

Sen. Gregory Barkus (R)
P.O. Box 2647
Kalispell, MT 59903-2467
Wk: 752-6212, Hm: 755-8362
gbarkus@dadco.com

Sen. Jerry Black (R)
445 O'Haire Blvd.
Shelby, MT 59474-1950
Ph: 434-5363
blacks@mcn.net

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
535 Livingston Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801-8003
Ph: 728-7723

Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
141 North Ave. East
Missoula, MT 59801-6011
Ph: 543-5608
jonelling@aol.com

Sen. Ken Toole (D)
P.O. Box 1462
Helena, MT 59624-1462
Ph: 442-3180
samt@mcn.net

Assigned Studies

SJR 29 Study the taxation of centrally assessed properties, with a focus on utilities and utility properties.

Staff

Jeff Martin and Leanne Kurtz, Research Analysts, Legislative Services Division

Lee Heiman, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Cindy Amundson, Administrative Support Manager, Legislative Fiscal Division

State Administration and Veterans' Affairs

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/st_admin_vet_affairs/default.asp

Section 5-5-228, MCA, provides:

The State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the public employee retirement plans and the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

- Montana Department of Administration
- Montana Department of Military Affairs
- Montana Office of the Secretary of State

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

- House State Administration
- House Appropriations
- Senate State Administration
- Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Stan Fisher (R)
76 Golf Terrace Dr.
Bigfork, MT 59911-6252
Ph: 837-2232
sfisher@digisys.net

Rep. Larry Jent (D)
1201 S 3rd
Bozeman, MT 59715-5503
Ph: 587-1210

Rep. Ralph Lenhart (D)
P.O. Box 1225
Glendive, MT 59330-1225
Ph: 365-3469
lenhart@midrivers.com

Rep. Bernie Olson (R)
161 Lakeside Blvd.
Lakeside, MT 59922-9723
Ph: 844-3282
obernie@polson.net

Senate Members

Sen. Keith Bales (R)
HC 39, Box 33
Otter, MT 59062-9703
Ph: 784-2487
bri@rangeweb.net

Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
P.O. Box 724
Roundup, MT 59072-0724
Wk: 323-2679, Hm: 323-1564
gebby@midrivers.com

Sen. Joe Tropila (D)
209 2nd St. NW
Great Falls, MT 59404-1301
Ph: 453-1124

Sen. Mike Wheat (D)
930 Stonegate Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715-2109
Wk: 587-4445, Hm: 587-0269
mwheat@cokwheatlaw.com

Assigned Studies

None.

Staff

Dave Bohyer, Director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, Legislative Services Division

John MacMaster, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

State-Tribal Relations

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/st_trib_rel/default.asp

Section 5-5-229, MCA, provides:

The mandate of the State-Tribal Relations Committee is to act as a liaison with tribal governments, encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation, conduct interim studies, and report its activities, findings, recommendations, and proposals for legislation to the upcoming Legislature.

Membership

The eight-member Committee is chosen by the Speaker of the House (four members) and the Senate Committee on Committees (four members).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Carol Juneau (D)
128 9th Ave. SE
Browning, MT 59417-0055
Ph: 338-5689
csjuneau@3rivers.net

Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
8920 MT Hwy 200
Wolf Creek, MT 59648-8639
Ph: 562-3502
ripleys@3rivers.net

Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)
2319 Hwy 89 South
Emigrant, MT 59027-6023
Ph: 333-4977

Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
RR 1, Box 544
Box Elder, MT 59521-9799
Wk: 395-5091, Hm: 395-4478
jonathan@cct.rockyboy.org

Senate Members

Sen. John Bohlinger (R)
2233 Remington Sq.
Billings, MT 59102-2489
Ph: 259-5698
jcbohlinger@hotmail.com

Sen. Ed Butcher (R)
P.O. Box 89
Winifred, MT 59489-0089
Wk: 462-5615, Hm: 462-5627
senatorbutcher@aftco.net

Sen. Ken Hansen (D)
P.O. Box 686
Harlem, MT 59526-0686
Ph: 353-4941
hansen_kenneth@email.com

Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
2111 S 10th St. West
Missoula, MT 59801-3412
Ph: 543-6734
sqigs@msn.com

Assigned Studies

HJR 8 Study the dropout rates, graduation rates, and at-risk factors among American Indian students in Montana's public schools, develop a strategic state plan to reduce the dropout rate among all students, and report the findings of the study and recommendations to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Connie Erickson, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Eddye McClure, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

<i>PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</i>
<i>PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT</i>
<i>OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE</i>
<i>INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS</i>

Districting and Apportionment

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/dist_apport/FEBfinal.asp

Constitutional and Statutory Citation:

Article V, section 14, Montana Constitution; Title 5, chapter 1, part 1, MCA

The Montana Constitution and the Montana Code Annotated provide that a Districting and Apportionment Commission must be appointed in the legislative session preceding each federal population census. The Constitution directs the Commission to "prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts".

The Commission had specific deadlines for filing final plans for congressional and legislative districts once 2000 census figures were released. The Commission filed the congressional plan that went into effect for the 2002 general election and presented the legislative redistricting plan to the 2003 Legislature for its recommendations.

On February 5, 2003, the Commission adopted a final redistricting plan. Commissioners Sheila Rice and Joe Lamson submitted the plan to the Secretary of State as provided in the Montana Constitution. Secretary of State Bob Brown refused to accept the plan based on House Bill No. 309, which had been signed into law by Governor Martz on February 4, 2003. House Bill No. 309 required a plus or minus 1% deviation, and the plan had been drawn using a criterion of plus or minus 5% deviation.

Secretary of State Brown filed a complaint for declaratory judgment on February 5, 2003, requesting "the court to determine the constitutionality and statutory validity of the Statewide Redistricting Plan adopted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission". As of the date of this publication, the status of the litigation was unresolved. Upon resolution of pending litigation, it is hoped that a legislative plan will be in effect for filing and elections in 2004 for the 2005 Legislature. The Constitution provides that the Commission is dissolved upon the filing of the legislative redistricting plan, so the Commission's status is also pending.

For more information, see the Commission website for updates or contact Susan Byorth Fox at the Legislative Services Division.

Staff

Susan Byorth Fox, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

John MacMaster, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Legislative Branch Computer System Planning Council

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/com_sys_plan/default.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 4, MCA

Legislative participation in the Computer System Planning Council is not required by statute, but the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may, at their discretion, assign legislators to serve.

The Council is responsible for reviewing and maintaining the Legislative Branch computer system plan, investigating new applications, designing methods for automation, developing system standards and identifying the needs of the Branch's computer system, and coordinating new applications with the statutory goals of the Legislative Branch.

The Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division serves as the Presiding Officer of the Council.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Ms. Lois Menzies, Presiding Officer
Executive Director, Legislative
Services Division
State Capitol, Room 110
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
Ph: 444-3064
lomenzies@state.mt.us

Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
321 Lakeview Dr.
Polson, MT 59860-9317
Ph: 883-2395
repjohn@montana.com

Ms. Chuckie Cramer
Senate Sergeant-at-Arms

Mr. Tony Herbert
Montana Department of
Administration
P.O. Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
Ph: 444-2700
therbert@state.mt.us

Ms. Marilyn Miller
Chief Clerk of the House

Ms. Rosana Skelton
Secretary of the Senate

Mr. Clayton Schenck
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
State Capitol, Room 110
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711
Ph: 444-2986
cschenck@state.mt.us

Mr. Scott Seacat
Legislative Auditor
State Capitol, Room 160
P.O. Box 201705
Helena, MT 59620-1705
Ph: 444-3122
sseacat@state.mt.us

Staff

Hank Trenk, Director
Office of Legislative Information Technology
Legislative Services Division

<i>PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</i>
<i>PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT</i>
<i>OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE</i>
<i>INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS</i>

Capitol Complex Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 2-17-803, et seq., MCA

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council is a 9-member committee created to review proposals for long-term placement of displays or the naming of state buildings, spaces, or rooms in the Capitol complex, to advise the Legislature on the long-term placement of statues, busts, memorials, monuments, or art displays within the Capitol complex, to advise the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on interior decoration of the Capitol, and to advise the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (DFWP) on grounds maintenance and grounds displays.

By November 15 of each even-numbered year, the Council must report to the Legislature on requests that it has reviewed for naming buildings, spaces, or rooms and for long-term placement of items in the Capitol or on the Capitol complex grounds.

Membership

The Council consists of nine members, including two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, two members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees, a public representative appointed by the Governor, and the director or the director's designee of each of the following agencies--the Montana Historical Society, the Montana Arts Council, the DOA, and the DFWP.

The DOA and DFWP provide staff services to the Council.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Legislative Members

Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
713 Pyrite Court
Helena, MT 59601-5877
Wk: 449-8611, Hm: 443-0144
cooneyemail@aol.com

Sen. Duane Grimes (R)
4 Hole in the Wall
Clancy, MT 59634-9516
Ph: 933-8538

Rep. Larry Jent (D)
1201 S 3rd
Bozeman, MT 59715-5503
Ph: 587-1210

Rep. Jeff Laszloffy (R)
3165 Hwy 212 South
Laurel, MT 59044-8911
Ph: 628-4705
repjeff@hotmail.com

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Scott Darkenwald
Montana Department of
Administration
P.O. Box 200101
Helena, MT 59620-0101
Ph: 444-2032
sdarkenwald@state.mt.us

Ms. Sarah Etchart
801 Flowerree
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 443-2254
jetchart@aol.com

Mr. Doug Monger
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: 444-3750
dmonger@state.mt.us

Mr. Arnold Olsen
Montana Historical Society
222 N Roberts
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
Ph: 444-4706
aolsen@state.mt.us

Mr. Jim Poor
Montana Arts Council
112 Humbolt Loop
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 443-7944

Staff

Sheryl Olson, Deputy Administrator
Montana Department of Administration
General Services Division
P.O. Box 200110
Helena, MT 59620-0110
Ph: 444-3315 FAX: 444-2529
sherylolson@state.mt.us

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Advisory Committee

Statutory Citation: Section 75-6-231, MCA

As provided in 75-6-203, MCA, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program is a "program under which the state may provide financial assistance to community water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems". The program is co-administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which manages the technical components of the program, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), which implements the loan program and issues the bonds that are used for the state match to the federal grant.

The revolving fund is a separate account in the state treasury from which loans can be made, debt obligations and insurance can be purchased, and other assistance can be provided to improve water systems.

Each year, the DEQ must prepare an intended use plan for the fund, which must include descriptions of the projects that program funds will assist and the amount and type of funds to be allocated. This plan is subject to public comment and review by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Advisory Committee.

Membership

The committee has six members. Two members are appointed from the Legislature. One member must be from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives, and they may not represent the same political party. Other entities that must be represented include the Montana League of Cities and Towns, the Montana Association of Counties, the DNRC, and the DEQ.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Legislative Members

Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
469 Griffin Rd.
Medicine Lake, MT 59247-9708
Ph: 286-5611
lnelson@nemontel.net

Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
8920 MT Hwy 200
Wolf Creek, MT 59648-8639
Ph: 562-3502
ripleys@3rivers.net

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Mike Hutchin

Lake County Courthouse
106 4th Ave. East
Polson, MT 59860-2125
Ph: 883-7204
commissioners@lakecounty-mt.org

Mr. Joe Menicucci

City of Belgrade
91 E Central
Belgrade, MT 59714
Ph: 388-4994
belgrademgr@in-tch.com

Mr. John Tubbs

Montana Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation
1625 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-1601
Ph: 444-6687
jtubbs@state.mt.us

Chief

Montana Department of Environmental
Quality
Technical and Financial Assistance
Bureau
1520 E 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Ph: 444-6776

Staff

Mark Smith

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Planning, Prevention, and Assistance Division
1520 E 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Ph: 444-6697 FAX: 444-6836
marks@state.mt.us

Economic Development Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1820, MCA.

The Economic Development Advisory Council provides direction and oversight to the Governor and the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC). Specifically, the Council:

- advises the DOC concerning the distribution of funds to certified regional development corporations for business development purposes;
- advises the DOC regarding the creation, operation, and maintenance of the Microbusiness Finance Program and the policies and operations affecting the certified microbusiness development corporations;
- advises the Governor and the DOC on significant matters concerning economic development in Montana;
- prescribes allowable administrative expenses for which economic development funds may be used by certified regional development corporations; and
- encourages certified regional development corporations to promote economic development on Indian reservations in their regions.

Membership

The Council is composed of up to 19 members. Fifteen of the members are appointed by the Governor and include the Director of the DOC, the Governor's Chief Business Development Officer who serves as Presiding Officer of the Council, one member from a Montana tribal government who represents a tribal economic development organization, and up to 12 public members representing each geographic region covered by each of the regional development corporations certified by the DOC. In addition, two representatives, including one from each party, are appointed by the Speaker of the House and two senators, including one from each party, are appointed by the Committee on Committees.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Legislative Members

Rep. Brennan Ryan (D)
P.O. Box 123
Stockett, MT 59480-0123
Ph: 736-5242
5ryan@3rivers.net

Rep. John Sinrud (R)
284 Frontier Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59718-7975
Wk: 388-6973, Hm: 388-2336
johnsinrudhd31@hotmail.com

Sen. Don Ryan (D)
2101 7th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-2821
Ph: 761-3261
senatordonryan@msn.com

Sen. Mike Sprague (R)
174 Erickson Court South
Billings, MT 59105-2347
Ph: 252-6027

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Dave Gibson, Presiding Officer
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-5634
dagibson@state.mt.us

Mr. Jim Atchison
Southeastern Montana Development
Corp.
P.O. Box 1935
Colstrip, MT 59323

Ms. Kathie Bailey
Snowy Mountain Development Corp.
613 NE Main
Lewistown, MT 59457

Mr. Evan Barrett
Butte Local Development Corp.
P.O. Box 507
Butte, MT 59703

Mr. Steve Holland
Montana State University
Montana Manufacturing Extension
Center
P.O. Box 173800
Bozeman, MT 59717

Ms. Jane Karas
Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Mr. James Klessans
Beartooth RC&D
P.O. Box 180
Joliet, MT 59041

Ms. Erin Lutts
Mid-Rivers Communications
211 N Merrill Ave.
Glendive, MT 59330

Mr. Tony Rudbach
University of Montana
University Hall, Room 116
Missoula, MT 59812

Mr. Mark Sansaver
Assiniboine & Sioux Tribal Enterprise
Community
HC 31, Box 3051
Wolf Point, MT 59201

Mr. Mark Simonich
Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620-0501
Ph: 841-2704
msimonich@state.mt.us

Mr. Paul Tuss
Bear Paw Development Corp.
P.O. Box 170
Havre, MT 59501

Ms. Anita Varone
Lewis and Clark County
316 N Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Ms. Linda Twitchell
Great Northern Development Corp.
233 Cascade St.
Wolf Point, MT 59201

Ms. Elaine Zempel
Pondera Coalition for Progress
406 1/2 S Main
Conrad, MT 59425

Staff

Andy Poole, Administrator
Montana Department of Commerce
Business Resources Division
301 S Park
Helena, MT 59620
Ph: 841-2707 FAX: 841-2731
apoole@state.mt.us

Quinn Ness, Program Manager
Montana Department of Commerce
Certified Regional Development Corporations
301 S Park
Helena, MT 59620
Ph: 841-2758 FAX: 841-2731
quness@state.mt.us

Electronic Government Advisory Council

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/itsd/policy/councils/egov/egov.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-17-1105, MCA.

The charge of the Electronic Government Advisory Council is to advise the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on the creation, management, and administration of electronic government services and information on the Internet.

Membership

The Council consists of the following members:

- the Director of the DOA, who serves as Presiding Officer;
- the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee;
- the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
- the Director of the Department of Commerce or the Director's designee;
- the Director of the Department of Revenue or the Director's designee;
- the State Librarian or the State Librarian's designee;
- a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- a member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- an elected local government official, appointed by the Governor;
- two representatives from state agencies that are not represented on the Council, appointed by the Governor;
- two members of the public, appointed by the Governor; and
- the administrator of the Information Services Division of the DOA.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Legislative Members

Sen. John Bohlinger (R)
2233 Remington Sq.
Billings, MT 59102-2489
Ph: 259-5698
jcbohlinger@hotmail.com

Rep. Bob Lake (R)
P.O. Box 2096
Hamilton, MT 59840-2096
Ph: 363-4091
lakemill@montana.com

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Scott Darkenwald, Presiding Officer

Montana Department of
Administration
P.O. Box 200101
Helena, MT 59620-0101
Ph: 444-3033
sdarkenwald@state.mt.us

Mr. Larry Fasbender

Montana Department of Justice
P.O. Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401
Ph: 444-2026
lfasbender@state.mt.us

Ms. Linda Francis

Montana Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805
Ph: 444-1900
lfrancis@state.mt.us

Mr. Jeff Hagener

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: 444-3186
jhagener@state.mt.us

Ms. Wendy Keating

Montana Department of Labor and
Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59620-1728
Ph: 444-3299
wkeating@state.mt.us

Mr. Christian Mackay

Montana Legend Beef
3048 Hwy 312 East
Billings, MT 59105
Ph: 259-6910
christianm@montanalegend.com

Mr. Jim Reno

Yellowstone County Courthouse
217 N 27th
Billings, MT 59101
Ph: 256-2701
jreno@co.yellowstone.mt.us

Mr. Mark Simonich

Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620-0501
Ph: 841-2704
msimonich@state.mt.us

Ms. Karen Strege

Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800
Ph: 444-3115
kstrege@state.mt.us

Mr. Jason Thielman

Montana Secretary of State's Office
P.O. Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620-2801
Ph: 444-2034
jthielman@state.mt.us

Mr. Gene Vuckovich
GV Consulting and Administrative
Services
1205 W Third St.
Anaconda, MT 59711
Ph: 563-2313
genev@ixi.net

Mr. Brian Wolf
Montana Department of
Administration
P.O. Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
Ph: 444-2700
bwolf@state.mt.us

Staff

Steve Bender
Montana Department of Administration
P.O. Box 200101
Helena, MT 59620-0101
Ph: 444-3307 FAX: 444-2812
sbender@state.mt.us

Future Fisheries Review Panel

Statutory Citation: Section 87-1-273, MCA

The Future Fisheries Review Panel is responsible for assisting the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in reviewing projects submitted by public or private entities for funding and determining which projects are appropriate for inclusion in the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Membership

The Speaker of the House and the Senate Committee on Committees each choose one member to serve on the Panel. Eleven other members, representing the interests listed below, are appointed by the Governor. The Panel is required to meet at least once every 6 months.

The Panel is composed of:

- two legislators,
- a representative of conservation districts,
- a representative with expertise in commercial agriculture,
- a representative with expertise in irrigated agriculture,
- a private fisheries restoration professional,
- two members who are licensed Montana anglers,
- a representative with expertise in silviculture,
- a Montana high school student,
- a representative with expertise in mining reclamation techniques,
- a representative with expertise in fisheries, and
- one ex officio member from the Montana Department of Transportation who has experience in highway impacts mitigation.

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program terminates July 1, 2009.

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

Legislative Members

Rep. George Everett (D)
1344 Helena Flats Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901-6548
Ph: 752-0102

Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
P.O. Box 210
Dayton, MT 59914-0210
Ph: 849-5281
taylor2@digisys.net

Public Members

Mr. Steve Custer
Montana State University
Earth Sciences
Bozeman, MT 59717-3480
Ph: 994-6906

Dr. Tom McMahon
Montana State University
Ecology Department, Lewis Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717
Ph: 994-2492

Mr. Marvin Miller
Montana Tech of the University of
Montana
Bureau of Mines and Geology
1300 W Park St.
Butte, MT 59701
Ph: 496-4155

Mr. Bill Naegeli
36 Little Beaver Creek Rd.
Trout Creek, MT 59874
Ph: 827-4887
tfl4887@blackfoot.net

Mr. Doug Parrott
15596 Hwy 12 West
Roundup, MT 59072
Ph: 323-1662

Mr. Ron Steiner
Plum Creek Timber Co.
140 N Russell
Missoula, MT 59801-8099
Ph: 542-3262

Mr. Gordon Stockstad
(ex officio)
Montana Department of
Transportation
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
Ph: 444-7223
gstockstad@state.mt.us

Mr. Jim Stone
P.O. Box 148
Ovando, MT 59854
Ph: 793-5830

Mr. Chris Strainer
Cross Currents
326 Jackson
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 449-2292

Ms. Traci Sylte
Lolo National Forest
Building 24
Fort Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: 329-3896

Mr. Robert Twitford
P.O. Box 507
Malta, MT 59538
Ph: 654-1442

Mr. Jeff Wilson
405 Monroe
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 443-2884

Staff

Glenn Phillips, Mark Lere, Karen Dimmitt
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave.
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: 444-2449 FAX: 444-4952

Gaming Advisory Council

<http://www.doj.state.mt.us/gaming/advisorycouncil.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-2021, MCA

The Gaming Advisory Council, created in 1989, advises the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) and other state agencies on public policy matters related to gaming, including changes to gaming statutes, the need for additional or modified department rules, and other gambling-related issues. The Council must submit to the DOJ a biennial report that includes the Council's findings and recommendations.

Membership

The Speaker of the House and the Senate Committee on Committees each select one person from their respective houses to serve on the Council. The remaining members are appointed by the Attorney General, with one representing the public; two representing local governments; one, who is a Native American; and three representing the gaming industry.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Legislative Members

Sen. Dale Mahlum (R), Presiding Officer

10955 U.S. Hwy 93 North
Missoula, MT 59808-9227
Ph: 549-3115
mal51732@aol.com

Rep. John Witt (R)

2555 Russell Rd.
Carter, MT 59420-8230
Ph: 734-5451
legend@3riversdbs.net

Attorney General's Appointees

Mr. John Tooke, Vice Presiding Officer

301 Ponderosa Dr.
Miles City, MT 59301
Wk: 232-6060, Hm: 232-6704

Mr. Tim Carson

4620 Cliffview Circle
Billings, MT 59106
Ph: 652-3239

Mr. S. Kevin Howlett
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Ph: 675-2700 (Tues. and Thurs.)

Ms. Pam Kennedy
P.O. Box 2445
Kalispell, MT 59903
Ph: 752-4215

Mr. Steve Morris
Jorgenson's Restaurant
1720 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Wk: 442-6380, Hm: 449-3931

Mr. Nick Murnion
Garfield County
P.O. Box 375
Jordan, MT 59337
Ph: 557-2480

Mr. Bill Thomas
4701 Diana Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59405
Ph: 761-8013

Staff

Gene Huntington, Administrator
Montana Department of Justice
Gambling Control Division
2550 Prospect Ave.
P.O. Box 201424
Helena, MT 59620
Ph: 444-1935 FAX: 444-9157

Information Technology Board

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/itsd/policy/councils/itb/itb.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1021, MCA

The Information Technology Board provides a forum to guide state agencies, the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, and local governments in the development and deployment of intergovernmental information technology resources. The Board also advises the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on statewide information technology standards and policies, the state strategic information technology plan, major information technology budget requests, and rates and other charges for services established by the DOA.

Membership

The board consists of 19 members that include:

- the director of the DOA, who serves as Presiding Officer of the Board;
- the chief information officer provided for in 2-17-511;
- the Director of the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning;
- six members who are directors of state agencies and who are appointed by the Governor;
- two members representing local government, appointed by the Governor;
- one member representing the Public Service Commission (PSC), appointed by the PSC;
- one member representing the private sector, appointed by the Governor;
- one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- one member representing the Legislative Branch, appointed by the Legislative Branch Computer System Planning Council;
- one member representing the Judicial Branch, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- one member representing the university system, appointed by the Board of Regents; and
- one member representing K-12 education, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Legislative Members

Rep. Jack Ross (R)
129 N Stillwater Rd.
Absarokee, MT 59001-6235
Ph: 328-4925

Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
3614 Crater Lake Ave.
Billings, MT 59102-7732
Ph: 252-5144
coreystapleton@attbi.com

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Scott Darkenwald
Montana Department of
Administration
P.O. Box 200101
Helena, MT 59620-0101
Ph: 444-3033
sdarkenwald@state.mt.us

Ms. Wendy Keating
Montana Department of Labor and
Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59620-1728
Ph: 444-3299
wkeating@state.mt.us

Ms. Linda Francis
Montana Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805
Ph: 444-1900
lfrancis@state.mt.us

Mr. Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County Courthouse
217 N 27th
Billings, MT 59101
Ph: 256-2701
bkennedy@co.yellowstone.mt.us

Ms. Gail Gray
Montana Department of Public Health
and Human Services
P.O. Box 202901
Helena, MT 59620-2901
Ph: 444-5622
ggray@state.mt.us

Ms. Linda McCulloch
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
Ph: 444-7362
lmcculloch@state.mt.us

Mr. Mike McGrath
Montana Department of Justice
P.O. Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401
Ph: 444-2026
mmcgrath@state.mt.us

Ms. Lois Menzies
Montana Legislative Services Division
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
Ph: 444-3064
lomenzies@state.mt.us

Justice James C. Nelson
Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203001
Helena, MT 59620-3001
Ph: 444-5570
jnelson@state.mt.us

Ms. Jan Sensibaugh
Montana Department of Environmental
Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Ph: 444-5270
jsensibaugh@state.mt.us

Ms. Mary Sexton
Teton County Commission
P.O. Box 1303
Choteau, MT 59422
Wk: 466-2151, Hm: 466-2079
tetoncc@3rivers.net

Mr. Bill Slaughter
Montana Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 201301
Helena, MT 59620-1301
Ph: 444-3901
bslaughter@state.mt.us

Mr. Jay Stovall
Montana Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601
Ph: 444-6165
jstovall@state.mt.us

Mr. Mike Strand
Montana Independent
Telecommunications Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 5237
Helena, MT 59604-5237
Ph: 443-1940
mikestrand@mitstel.com

Mr. Ron Sundsted
Montana Office of the Commissioner
of Higher Education
P.O. Box 203101
Helena, MT 59620-3101
Ph: 444-0319
rsundsted@oche.montana.edu

Mr. Chuck Swysgood
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200802
Helena, MT 59620-0802
Ph: 444-3698
cswysgood@state.mt.us

Mr. Brian Wolf
CIO, State of Montana
P.O. Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
Ph: 444-2700
bwolf@state.mt.us

Staff

Tony Herbert
Montana Department of Administration
Information Technology Services Division
P.O. Box 200113
Helena, MT 59620-0113
Ph: 444-2700 FAX: 444-2701
therbert@state.mt.us

K-12 Public School Renewal Commission

Session Law Citation: Chapter 548, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the K-12 Public School Renewal Commission to study and propose changes to improve K-12 public education in Montana. The specific mandate of the Commission is to examine:

- the revenue available for public education;
- the structure of school district governance;
- the methods of funding public education;
- the role of the state government in public education; and
- the role of the federal government in public education.

A final report of the Commission's findings and recommendations must be submitted to the Education and Local Government interim committee by September 15, 2004. The Commission may recommend legislation to the 59th Legislature based on its findings.

Membership

The Commission must include among its members the Governor, the Presiding Officer of the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the Senate, or a designee for any of these appointments. In addition, the Governor, in consultation with the above members, must appoint a representative from the Juvenile Corrections Division of the Montana Department of Corrections and choose from 10 to 25 entities to designate a representative to serve on the Commission.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Core Legislative Members

Rep. Doug Mood (R)
P.O. Box 42
Seeley Lake, MT 59868-0042
Ph: 677-2291
d_mood@hotmail.com

Rep. Holly Raser (D)
4304 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804-4520
Wk: 549-9239, Hm: 542-7018
hraser@bigsky.net

Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
P.O. Box 697
Bigfork, MT 59911-0697
Ph: 837-4989
bob@bigforkinn.com

Sen. Don Ryan (D)
2101 7th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-2821
Ph: 761-3261
senatordonryan@msn.com

Non-Legislative Core Members

Ms. Linda McCulloch
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
Ph: 444-7362
lmcculloch@state.mt.us

Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-3111

Mr. Kirk Miller
Montana Board of Public Education
P.O. Box 7791
Havre, MT 59501

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Keith Allen
Montana AFL/CIO
P.O. Box 1176
Helena, MT 59624
Ph: 442-1708 or 888-338-6466

Mr. Eric Feaver
MEA/MFT
1232 E 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Wk: 442-4250 Hm: 442-6121
efeaver@mea-mft.org

Ms. Cathy Day
Montana Parent Teacher Assn.
P.O. Box 6448
Great Falls, MT 59405
Ph: 268-7475
montanapta@earthlink.net

Mr. John Fitzpatrick
1205 Butte Ave. Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-3909

Mr. Eric Engellant
Great Falls High School
1900 2nd Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405
Ph: 268-6250

Mr. Steve Gibson
Montana Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 201301
1539 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-1301
Ph: 444-0851
sgibson@state.mt.us

Mr. Steve Johnson
P.O. Box 520
Bozeman, MT 59715
Ph: 522-6042
sjohnson@bozeman.k12.mt.us

Rep. Carol Juneau
128 9th Ave. SE
Browning, MT 59417-0055
Ph: 338-5689
csjuneau@3rivers.net

Mr. Ron Laferriere
Montana Council of Administrators of
Special Education
Madison / Gallatin Cooperative
P.O. Box 162
Belgrade, MT 59714
Ph: 388.6508
ronlaf@hotmail.com

Mr. Tim Lund
Coldwell Banker Western States
P.O. Box 120
Hamilton, MT 59840
Wk: 363-1250, Hm: 363-8838
tlund@cybernet1.com

Mr. John McNeil
Savage Public Schools
P.O. Box 110
Savage, MT 59262
Ph: 776-2317

Ms. Carmen McSpadden
Montana School Boards Assn.
4100 Pasha Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
Wk: 994-7275 Hm: 587-5597
mcspadden@mcn.net

Dr. Bruce K. Messinger
May Butler Center
55 S Rodney
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 447-8510
bmessinger@helena.k12.mt.us

Mr. Mike Nicosia
Columbia Falls Public Schools
P.O. Box 1259
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Ph: 892-6550

Mr. Darrell Rud
School Administrators of Montana
1134 Butte Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 442-2510
samdr@sammt.org

Mr. Scott Seilstad
Denton, MT 59430
Ph: 567-2489

Mr. Jules Waber
Powell County Superintendent
409 Missouri Ave.
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Ph: 846-3680

At-Large Members

Ms. Lorri Coulter
Brusett, MT 59318
Ph: 557-6240

Mr. Carter Christiansen
1104 S Moorhead
Miles City, MT 59301
Ph: 232 2260

Mr. Robert Murray
Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 605
Poplar, MT 59255
Wk: 786-3244 Hm: 768-5275

Rep. Pat Wagman
202 S 9th St.
Livingston, MT 59047-2906
Wk: 222-2061, Hm: 222-6265

Staff

Suzan Hopkins
Montana Board of Public Education
P.O. Box 200601
Helena, MT 59620-0601
Ph: 444-6576 FAX: 444-0847

Kris Goss
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-3862 FAX: 444-5529

Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation

Session Law Citation: Chapter 354, Laws of 1993

The Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation is made up of two senators and two representatives, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

This Committee meets with the Montana Department of Justice's Natural Resource Damage Program to be briefed on the progress of the litigation and negotiations between the State of Montana and Atlantic-Richfield Corporation regarding natural resource damages in the Clark Fork River Basin. The Committee is also briefed on plans for the appropriate use of the money received by the state as a result of the litigation.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Dick Haines (R)
5935 St. Francis Dr.
Missoula, MT 59803-2945
Ph: 251-3770

Rep. Brad Newman (D)
514 N Henry Ave.
Butte, MT 59701-8720
Wk: 497-6237, Hm: 782-5268
bnewman@in-tch.com

Senate Members

Sen. Sherm Anderson (R)
P.O. Box 311
Deer Lodge, MT 59722-0311
Ph: 846-2353
logging@montana.com

Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
100 Moon Lane
Butte, MT 59701-3975
Ph: 494-4708

Staff

Rob Collins and Carol Fox
Montana Department of Justice
Natural Resource Damage Program
1301 E Lockey
P.O. Box 201425
Helena, MT 59620-1425
Ph: 444-0205 FAX: 444-0236

Montana Consensus Council Board

<http://mcc.state.mt.us/css/default.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1027, MCA

Originally established by Executive Order in 1994 and statutorily decreed in 2003, the mission of the Montana Consensus Council (MCC) is "to promote fair, effective, and efficient processes for building agreement on natural resource and other public policy issues"² in Montana.

Membership

The MCC is governed by a Board of Directors constructed to represent a cross-section of Montana citizens. The Board consists of eight members, with four members appointed by the Governor; two members, one of whom is appointed by the President of the Senate and the other by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and two members, one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate and the other by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Legislative Members

Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
P.O. Box 697
Bigfork, MT 59911-0697
Ph: 837-4989
bob@bigforkinn.com

Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
1626 Heath St.
Huntley, MT 59037-9137
Ph: 348-2000
monica@lindeen.net

Public Members

Ms. Phyllis Denton
1325 Fox Farm Rd.
Dillon, MT 59725
Ph: 683-5455
pdenton@bmt.net

Ms. Anne Hedges
Montana Environmental Information
Center
P.O. Box 1184
Helena, MT 59624-1184
Ph: 443-2520
ahedges@meic.org

² <http://mcc.state.mt.us/css/default.asp>

Mr. Leroy Not Afraid
Boys & Girls Club of the Crow Nation
P.O. Box 274
Lodge Grass, MT 59050
Ph: 639-2484
leroynotafrad@hotmail.com

Ms. Peggy Trenk
Montana Association of Realtors
208 N Montana, Suite 105
Helena, MT 59601-3837
Ph: 443-4032
ptrenk@mtmar.com

Mr. John C. Sesso
Butte-Silver Bow Planning Department
155 W Granite
Butte, MT 58701
Ph: 497-6200
jsesso@co.silverbow.mt.us

Mr. Nelson Wert
60 Lower North Fork Lane
Townsend, MT 59644
Ph: 266-4433
nwert@imine.net

Staff

Nedra Chandler, Interim Director
Kathy van Hook, Interim Director
Montana Consensus Council
Montana Department of Administration
P.O. Box 200146
1301 Lockey, 3rd Floor
Helena, MT 59620
Ph: 444-4457 FAX: 444-4418

Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission

Session Law Citation: Chapter 469, Laws of 1997

Statutory Citation: Title 22, chapter 3, part 10, MCA

In addition to providing for numerous long-range building projects, House Bill No. 5 (Chapter 469, Laws of 1997) made possible the state's purchase and administration of Virginia and Nevada Cities and other historically significant state properties. To this end, HB 5 established the Heritage Preservation and Development Commission. The Commission consists of 14 members. The two legislative members are chosen by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Governor appoints nine members of the public with backgrounds in tourism, history and historic preservation, community planning, and business. The directors of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Historical Society, and the Montana Department of Commerce also serve on the Commission.

Although the Commission is charged with overseeing the acquisition of culturally and historically significant properties throughout the state, its first order of business is to manage Virginia City and Nevada City.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Legislative Members

Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
10955 U.S. Hwy 93 North
Missoula, MT 59808-9227
Ph: 549-3115
mal51732@aol.com

Rep. Diane Rice (R)
P.O. Box 216
Harrison, MT 59735-0216
Ph: 685-3468
drice@3rivers.net

Public and State Agency Members

Ms. Rosana Skelton, Presiding Officer
1215 Cripple Crow Rd.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 442-2393
rskelton@mtnet.net

Mr. John Lawton, Vice Presiding Officer
1406 3 West Hill Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59404
Ph: 455-8494
jlawton@ci.great-falls.mt.us

Ms. Maureen Averill
P.O. Box 248
Bigfork, MT 59911
Wk: 837-4391, Hm: 837-5100
maverill@centurytel.net

Dr. Mark Baumler
State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 201202
Helena, MT 59620-1202
Ph: 444-7717
mbaumler@state.mt.us

Mr. Brian Cockhill
232 Greenwood Dr.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 449-2154
lindac@initco.net

Mr. Bill Howell
P.O. Box 337
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Ph: 646-7475
koda@montanadsl.net

Mr. Patrick Keim
Burlington Northern Sante Fe
139 N Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601-4125
Ph: 447-2301
patrick.keim@bnsf.com

Ms. Jeanette McKee
133 Creekside
Hamilton, MT 59840
Ph: 363-4647
jmckee@in-tch.com

Ms. Judy McNally
5604 Walter Hagen Dr.
Billings, MT 59106
Ph: 656-9712
jmcnally@attbi.com

Mr. Doug Monger
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: 444-3751
dmonger@state.mt.us

Ms. Mary Oliver
P.O. Box 84
Ennis, MT 59729
Ph: 682-7366
moliver@bankingonthefuture.net

Mr. Mark Simonich
Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620-0501
Ph: 841-2704
msimonich@state.mt.us

Staff

Jeff Tiberi, Executive Director
Heritage Preservation and Development Commission
P. O. Box 201204
Helena, MT 59620-1201
Ph: 443-2081 FAX: 449-7081

Virginia City Office
P.O. Box 338
Virginia City, MT 59755
Ph: 843-5247 FAX: 843-5468

Property Tax Exemption Study Commission

Session Law Citation: Chapter 160, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the Property Tax Exemption Study Commission to conduct a study of property tax exemptions and to determine whether property tax exemptions contribute to or impede the goal of an equitable property tax system and determine whether existing property tax exemption laws should be modified or repealed in order to achieve the goal of an equitable property tax system.

The committee must submit a written report of its findings to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2004, that must include options, if options are considered necessary, and proposed legislation necessary to implement any proposals.

Membership

The 10 members must include:

- two members from the House of Representatives, one from each party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members from the Senate, one from each party, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees; and
- the following members appointed by the Governor:
 - one representative of local government;
 - one representative of K-12 public schools;
 - two representatives of property tax-exempt organizations;
 - one representative of business; and
 - one representative of the Executive Branch.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Legislative Members

Rep. Gary Branae (D)
415 Yellowstone Ave.
Billings, MT 59101-1730
Wk: 252-4171, Hm: 245-2127
branae@earthlink.net

Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)
1223 7th Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401-1613
Wk: 453-6784, Hm: 452-6966
jmangan@mountainpeaksinc.com

Sen. Walter L. McNutt (R)
110 12th Ave. SW
Sidney, MT 59270-3614
Ph: 488-4966
walt@midrivers.com

Rep. Pat Wagman (R)
202 S 9th St.
Livingston, MT 59047-2906
Wk: 222-2061, Hm: 222-6265

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Mack Cole
7 Cole Lane
Forsyth, MT 59327
Ph: 342-5400
mjcole@rangeweb.net

Mr. Jim Oliverson
Kalispell Regional Medical Center
310 Sunnyview Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
Ph: 752-1724
jolive@krmc.org

Mr. Gary Hickie
2204 Louise Lane
Billings, MT 59102
Ph: 656-8772
garyh@yellowstonefoundation.org

Mr. William Parker
Malta Public Schools
P.O. Box 670
Malta, MT 59538
Ph: 654-1871
bilpark@yahoo.com

Mr. Dwaine Iverson, CPA
301 First St. South
Shelby, MT 59474
Ph: 434-5272
djicpa@tgrsolution.net

Mr. Randy Wilke
Montana Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805
Ph: 444-3717
rwilke@state.mt.us

Staff

John Grimm
Montana Department of Revenue
603 Nikles
Bozeman, MT 59715
Ph: 582-3429 FAX: 582-3431
jgrimm@mt.state.us

Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 606, Laws of 2003

The mandate of the interim Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee is to study the effects of cyclical reappraisal and methods for mitigating the changes in taxable value caused by cyclical reappraisal.

The Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee must coordinate its work with the Tax Reform Study Committee. Written reports must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2004, that must include recommendations and proposed legislation, if legislation is considered necessary.

Membership

The committee is composed of four senators, two from each political party, appointed by the Committee on Committees, and four representatives, two appointed by the Speaker of the House and two appointed by the Minority Leader.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Rod Bitney (R)
P.O. Box 10501
Kalispell, MT 59904-0501
Ph: 257-2989

Rep. Gary Branae (D)
415 Yellowstone Ave.
Billings, MT 59101-1730
Wk: 252-4171, Hm: 245-2127
branae@earthlink.net

Rep. Larry Cyr (D)
1260 W Aluminum St.
Butte, MT 59701-2102
Ph: 782-1576
larrycyr@earthlink.net

Rep. Ronald Devlin (R)
P.O. Box 186
Terry, MT 59349-0186
Ph: 486-5533
rndvl@midrivers.com

Senate Members

Sen. Gregory Barkus (R)
P.O. Box 2647
Kalispell, MT 59903-2467
Wk: 752-6212, Hm: 755-8362
gbarkus@dadco.com

Sen. Emily Stonington (D)
15042 Kelly Canyon Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715-9625
Ph: 587-9332
emstony47@aol.com

Sen. Robert Story (R)
133 Valley Creek Rd.
Park City, MT 59063-8040
Ph: 633-2746

Sen. Ken Toole (D)
P.O. Box 1462
Helena, MT 59624-1462
Ph: 442-3180
samt@mcn.net

Staff

Dolores Cooney
Montana Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805
Ph: 444-9848
dcooney@mt.state.us

Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-212, MCA

The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission negotiates, on behalf of the Governor of the State of Montana, federal reserved water rights with the federal government and Montana's Indian tribes as part of the statewide water adjudication process.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each select two members from their respective bodies who join five other members appointed by the Governor and the Attorney General.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Legislative Members

Rep. Gary Forrester (D)
2527 Gardiner St. #R8
Billings, MT 59101-6702
Ph: 259-7243

Rep. Cindy Younkin (R)
1115 N Spruce Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715-5948
Wk: 587-5511, Hm: 585-9610
ceyounkin@yahoo.com

Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
1906 Ogden St.
Anaconda, MT 59711-1706
Ph: 563-2909
mccarthybea@aol.com

Sen. Bill Tash (R)
240 Vista Dr.
Dillon, MT 59725-3111
Ph: 683-4826

Governor's Appointees

Ms. Tara DePuy
414 E Callender St.
Livingston, MT 59047
Wk: 222-4150, Hm: 222-5432

Mr. Gene Etchart
P.O. Box 429
Glasgow, MT 59230
Wk: 228-2835, Hm: 228-4774

Mr. Lorents Grosfield
285 Grosfield Lane
Big Timber, MT 59011
Ph: 537-4489
lorents@mcn.net

Mr. Steve Hughes
6439 Eli Gap Rd.
Polson, MT 59860
Ph: 883-3475
hughesranch@yahoo.com

Attorney General's Appointee

Mr. Chris Tweeten, Presiding Officer
Attorney General's Office
Justice Building
P.O. Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401
Ph: 444-2026

Staff

Susan Cottingham, Program Manager
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1625 11th Ave.
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601
Ph: 444-6841 FAX: 444-6721

State Fund Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 598, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the State Fund Study Committee to study the role and the sale of the State Compensation Insurance Fund and determine if it is cost-effective and in the best interest of the state, Montana employees, and Montana employers to sell all or a portion of the State Compensation Insurance Fund assets and liabilities and to create an assigned risk pool.

The Committee must submit a report on the results of the study to the 59th Legislature. As a component of the report, the Committee must prepare any necessary legislation to implement a recommended sale. A sale of the assets and liabilities of the Fund may not be made unless the sale is approved by the 59th Legislature.

Membership

The committee consists of:

- two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, one from each party;
- two members of the Senate appointed by the President, one from each party;
- a representative of the State Auditor's Office, appointed by the State Auditor;
- a representative of the Governor's Office, appointed by the Governor;
- an insured employer of the State Fund who is also a member of the State Fund Board, appointed by the Governor;
- a representative of a plan No. 2 insurer, appointed by the Governor; and
- a representative of plan No. 1, appointed by the Governor.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Legislative Members

Rep. Bob Bergren (D)
1132 26th Ave. West
Havre, MT 59501-8609
Ph: 265-9078
bergren@hi-line.net

Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
2915 Illinois St.
Billings, MT 59102-0814
Ph: 245-7485
royalcjohnson@aol.com

Rep. Dave Lewis (R)
5871 Collins Rd.
Helena, MT 59602-9584
Ph: 458-5511
davelewisd@aol.com

Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
1906 Ogden St.
Anaconda, MT 59711-1706
Ph: 563-2909
mccarthybea@aol.com

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Tom Beck
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-3111
tbeck@state.mt.us

Mr. Jack Morgenstern
123 Uranium Dr.
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 538-7230

Ms. Angela Huschka
Montana State Auditor's Office
840 Helena Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 444-2004
ahuschka@state.mt.us

Mr. George Wood
409 Agnes Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
Ph: 549-8849

Ms. Jacqueline Lenmark
Keller Law Firm
50 S Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 442-0230

Staff

Kathy Gowen
Montana State Fund
P.O. Box 4759
Helena, MT 59604-4759
Ph: 444-7759
kgowen@state.mt.us

Tax Reform Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 606, Laws of 2003

The charge of this committee is to conduct a comprehensive examination of taxation in Montana. Specifically, the committee is required to:

- develop an inventory of taxes imposed at the state and local level,
- provide analyses that evaluate existing taxes,
- examine tax expenditures to assess the ongoing merit of each expenditure, and
- examine alternative methods of taxation from existing sources, as well as new sources of revenue, and evaluate the alternative methods and new sources according to the defined criteria.

The Tax Reform Study Committee must coordinate its work with the Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee. Written reports must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2004, that must include recommendations and proposed legislation, if legislation is considered necessary.

Membership

The committee must include:

- four senators, two from each political party, appointed by the Committee on Committees;
- four representatives, two appointed by the Speaker and two appointed by the minority leader; and
- the following members appointed by the Governor:
 - one representative of small business;
 - one representative of large industry;
 - one representative of agriculture; and
 - one representative of labor.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Legislative Members

Sen. Keith Bales (R)
HC 39, Box 33
Otter, MT 59062-9703
Ph: 784-2487
bri@rangeweb.net

Rep. Eileen Carney (D)
P.O. Box 1193
Libby, MT 59923-1193
Ph: 293-6407
jecarney@libby.org

Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
2610 Colt Dr.
East Helena, MT 59635-3442
Wk: 444-5261, Hm: 227-1144
utopiamt@prodigy.net

Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
141 North Ave. East
Missoula, MT 59801-6011
Ph: 543-5608
jonelling@aol.com

Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
1201 N Excelsior Ave.
Butte, MT 59701-8505
Ph: 782-0332
danwharrington@in-tch.com

Rep. Bob Lake (R)
P.O. Box 2096
Hamilton, MT 59840-2096
Ph: 363-4091
lakemill@montana.com

Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
3325 W Cedar Meadow Lane
Manhattan, MT 59741
Wk: 388-5788, Hm: 282-7477
perrysd16@aol.com

Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Route 1, Box 2
Buffalo, MT 59418-9501
Wk: 473-2277; Hm: 374-2277
jpranch@ttc-cmc.net

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Jerry Driscoll
Montana AFL/CIO
P.O. Box 1176
Helena, MT 59624
Ph: 442-1708
mtaflciodriscoll@unions-america.com

Mr. Ken Morrison
717 Third St.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 431-7428
skmorr@msn.com

Mr. Myles Watts
2801 Texas Way
Bozeman, MT 59715
Ph: 944-3703
mwatts@wattsandassociates.com

Ms. Mary Whittinghill
Montana Taxpayers Association
P.O. Box 4909
Helena, MT 59604
Ph: 442-2130
mwhitt@montax.org

Staff

Larry Finch
Montana Department of Revenue
Tax and Policy Research
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805
Ph: 444-3526 FAX: 444-3696
lfinch@state.mt.us

Workforce Investment Board

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/workforce/default.asp>

Federal Law Citation: 29 U.S.C. 2821

Statutory Citation: Section 53-2-1203, MCA.

Passage of the Workforce Investment Act by Congress in August 1998 resulted in a transformation of job training and employment services, effectively replacing the Job Training Partnership Act system. The purpose of the Act, as provided in 29 U.S.C. 2811, is to "provide workforce investment activities . . . that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation". The Act further states in 29 U.S.C. 2821 that the "Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce investment board to assist in the development of the State plan" and to carry out other functions.

The Board provides broad guidance and oversight to Montana's two local Workforce Investment Boards. The State Board conducts its work through committees, and has established the following committees for the 2003-2004 interim: Executive Committee, Accountability Committee, Regulatory Committee, and the Economic Development and Business Retention Committee. The Board is staffed from the Commissioner's Office of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

Membership

The Board must include the Governor or the Governor's designee; two members of the House of Representatives, each from a different political party, and two members of the Senate, each from a different political party, appointed by the presiding officer of each respective chamber; and gubernatorial appointees who are business owners, business executives, elected officials of local governments, representatives of labor organizations, individuals with experience in youth activities, experts in the delivery of workforce investment activities, state agency officials responsible for managing one-stop centers, and any other appropriate representatives, as determined by the Governor.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Legislative Members

Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
1440 Lewis Ave.
Billings, MT 59102-4240
Ph: 245-7256
arlene_becker@yahoo.com

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
535 Livingston Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801-8003
Ph: 728-7723

Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
3325 W Cedar Meadow Lane
Manhattan, MT 59741
Wk: 388-5788, Hm: 282-7477
perrysd16@aol.com

Rep. Donald Steinbeisser (R)
RR1, Box 3400
Sidney, MT 59270-9620
Ph: 482-2187
donstein@midrivers.com

Public and State Agency Members

Mr. Haley Beaudry, Presiding Officer
1 Redwood Dr.
Butte, MT 59701
Ph: 892-8403
hbeadry@cfaluminum.com

Ms. Becky Erickson, Vice Presiding Officer
640 6th Ave. North
Glasgow, MT 59230
Ph: 228-4614
bekysams@nemontel.net

Mr. Leroy Bingham
735 Cross St.
Billings, MT 59105
Ph: 256-9243
pikuni7@msn.com

Ms. Christina Boyle
136 Arrowhead Trail
Bozeman, MT 59718
Ph: 585-7443
christina@montanadsl.net

Ms. Carol Brooker
P.O. Box 519
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
Ph: 827-6942
brooker@blackfoot.net

Ms. Caroline Brown
RR1, P.O. Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526
Ph: 353-8418
caroline_fbplan@hotmail.com

Mr. Dick Brown
1720 9th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601-4657
Ph: 442-1911
dick@mtha.org

Mr. Webb Brown
P.O. Box 1730
Helena, MT 59624
Ph: 442-2405
webb@montanachamber.com

Mr. Bill Case
Job Corps
1407 Foster Creek Rd.
Anaconda, MT 59711
Ph: 563-3476
wcase@fs.fed.us

Ms. Susan Christofferson
146 3rd Ave. West
Kalispell, MT 59901
Ph: 756-1414
susanc@nurturingcenter.com

Mr. Jim Davison
118 E 7th
Anaconda, MT 59711
Ph: 563-5538
jdavison@in-tch.com

Mr. Bruce Day
REO
318 N Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 442-7850
reo@mt.net

Mr. Jerry Driscoll
AFL/CIO
P.O. Box 1176
Helena, MT 59624
Ph: 442-1708
mtaflciodriscoll@unions-america.com

Ms. Ellen Engstedt
Montana Wood Products Assn.
P.O. Box 1149
Helena, MT 59624
Ph: 443-1566
woodproducts@mtn.net

Mr. George Erickson
Experience Works
P.O. Box 2587
Great Falls, MT 59403
Ph: 761-4821
george_erickson@experienceworks.org

Mr. Dave Gibson
Montana Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Ph: 444-5635
dagibson@state.mt.us

Ms. Gail Gray, Director
Montana Department of Public Health
and Human Services
P.O. Box 202901
Helena, MT 59620-2901
Ph: 444-5622
ggray@state.mt.us

Mr. Lew Grill
3044 Hesper Rd.
Billings, MT 59102
Ph: 545-4546
lew@lewgrill.com

Ms. Diane Harkins
303 N Broadway, Suite 400
Billings, MT 59101
Ph: 237-6948
edharkins@pplmt.com

Mr. Cary Hegreberg
P.O. Box 4519
Helena, MT 59604-4519
Ph: 442-4162
cary@mtagc.org

Mr. Jim Hollenback
1339 Mullan Rd. East
Superior, MT 59872
Ph: 822-3033
jim@ownmt.com

Ms. Wendy Keating
Montana Department of Labor and
Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59620-1728
Ph: 444-3299
wkeating@state.mt.us

Ms. Susan Knedler
20 Hanover Rd.
Lewistown, MT 59457-1732
Ph: 538-7411
info@hiheat.com

Mr. Dennis Lerum
9500 Old Mill Rd.
Missoula, MT 59808
Ph: 543-3065
dlerum@bigsky.net

Mr. Joe Mathews
P.O. Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604
Ph: 444-2590
jmathews@state.mt.us

Ms. Linda McCulloch
Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
Ph: 444-7362
lmcculloch@state.mt.us

Mr. Jon Oldenburg
505 W Main, Suite 309
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 538-2242
olden@tein.net

Mr. Chuck Olson
P.O. Box 2493
Great Falls, MT 59402
Ph: 761-0018
colson@jtc-mt.com

Mr. Lyle Phillips
Columbia Falls Aluminum
2000 Aluminum Dr.
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Ph: 892-8228
jphillips@cfaluminum.com

Mr. Jim Reno
Yellowstone County Courthouse
217 N 27th
Billings, MT 59101
Ph: 256-2701
jreno@co.yellowstone.mt.us

Mr. Byron Roberts
1717 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph: 442-4479
mbia@aol.com

Ms. Diane Ruff
P.O. Box 1301
Billings, MT 59103
Ph: 248-6178
druff@associatedemployers.org

Mr. Jeff Rupp
32 S Tracy
Bozeman, MT 59715
Ph: 585-4868
hrdc9jr@aol.com

Mr. Gary Willis
P.O. Box 5539
Helena, MT 59604
Ph: 444-7506
gwillis@shodair.org

Staff

Kelly Chapman, Communications Director
Montana Department of Labor and Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624-1728
Ph: 444-1520
kechapman@state.mt.us

PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES
PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT
OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE
INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Council of State Governments

<http://www.csgwest.org>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA

Section 5-11-304, MCA, authorizes the Legislative Council to facilitate Montana's participation in "appropriate interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities" and thus its membership in the Council of State Governments, an organization of all the states and territories of the United States.

Montana is one of 13 states belonging to the Council of State Governments-West (CSG-West). CSG-West provides a "nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation and collaboration among the legislatures of the western states".³ The fundamental work of the CSG is accomplished through policy study committees with legislative representatives from each of the member states.

The Montana Legislature did not appropriate funding for Montana's active participation in CSG during the 2003-2004 biennium.

Membership

Committee	Senate Members		House Members	
Energy and Public Lands	Johnson	Stonington	Fisher	Carney
Fiscal Affairs	Story	Ryan	Devlin	Buzzas
Legislative Council on River Governance	Tash	McCarthy	Stoker	Gallus
Trade and Transportation	Kitzenberg	Roush & Tropila	Waitschies	Keane
Western Legislative Futures Forum	Perry	Schmidt	R. Brown	Gillan
Western Water and Environment	Bales	Toole	Lake	Jent

³ <http://www.csgwest.org>

Staff

Kent Briggs, Director

CSG-West

1107 9th St., Suite 650

Sacramento, CA 95814

Ph: (916) 553-4423

FAX: (916) 446-5760

kbriggs@csg.org

National Conference of State Legislatures

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA

Section 5-11-305, MCA, authorizes Montana's participation in "appropriate interstate organizations", the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) among them. NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves only legislators and their staffs. NCSL provides research, technical assistance, and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues and is an advocate for the interests of the states in the American Federal System.

Much of the NCSL's work is accomplished through 15 standing committees composed of legislators and legislative staff from across the country. The Legislative Council may appoint members to 2-year terms as delegates and alternates to NCSL committees. An appropriation in House Bill No. 2 pays the dues for Montana's membership in NCSL for each biennium. The appropriation does not, however, provide funds for legislator or staff participation in NCSL meetings or seminars.

The NCSL Committees are:

- Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
- Budgets and Revenue Committee
- Communications, Technology and Interstate Commerce Committee
- Economic Development, Trade and Cultural Affairs Committee
- Education Committee
- Energy and Electric Utilities Committee
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Financial Services Committee
- Health Committee
- Human Services and Welfare Committee
- Labor and Workforce Development Committee
- Law and Criminal Justice Committee
- Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee
- Redistricting and Elections Committee
- Transportation Committee

Membership

Committee	Senate Members		House Members	
Agriculture and Rural Development	Bales	Hansen	Pattison	Smith
Budgets and Revenue	Barkus	Elliot	Balyeat	Buzzas
Communications, Technology, and Interstate Commerce	Glaser	Wheat	Morgan	Lindeen
Economic Development, Trade, and Cultural Affairs	Curtiss	Mangan	Lambert	Gallik
Education	Glaser	Ryan	Andersen	Cyr
Energy and Electric Utilities	Johnson	Toole	A. Olson	Small-Eastman
Environmental and Natural Resources	Tash	Tester	Haines	Dickenson
Financial Services	Barkus	Harrington	Sinrud	Matthews
Health	Esp	Squires	Roberts	Becker
Human Services and Welfare	Keenan	Schmidt	E. Clark	Raser
Labor and Workforce Development	O'Neil	Cocchiarella	Lehman	Bergren
Law and Criminal Justice	Curtiss	Cromley	Noennig	Gutsche
Legislative Effectiveness and State Government	Gebhardt	Stonington	Hedges	Weiss
Redistricting and Elections	Esp	Tropila	Shockley	Jayne
Transportation	Butcher	Roush	B. Olson	Golie

Staff

Mary Fairchild

National Conference of State Legislatures

7700 E First Place

Denver, CO 80230

Ph: 303-364-7700

FAX: 303-364-7800

mary.fairchild@ncsl.org

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

<http://www.pnwer.org>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 7, MCA

In 2001, the Montana Legislature pledged its participation in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER). The purpose of the PNWER is to synchronize the efforts of neighboring states and provinces to promote greater regional collaboration among the eight entities, enhance the overall competitiveness of the region in international and domestic markets, increase the economic well-being of all citizens in the region, and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

The PNWER may promote its aim by endorsing uniform legislation or policy initiatives enacted by two or more participating states, provinces, or territories. States and provinces eligible to participate in the PNWER include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory.

The PNWER consists of a Delegate Council, which includes the Governor or a designee and four legislators from each participating state and four representatives from each participating province and territory, and an Executive Committee consisting of one legislator from each participating state, province, or territory who is a member of the Delegate Council and four of the Governors, Premiers, or Commissioners or their designees.

Policy committees may be established to address specific topics. The Legislative Council is authorized under 5-11-301, MCA, to make Montana's policy committee appointments to the PNWER.

Montana's Delegation

Rep. Aubyn Curtiss (R)
P.O. Box 216
Fortine, MT 59918-0216
Ph: 882-4448

Rep. Kim Gillan (D)
750 Judicial Ave.
Billings, MT 59105-2130
Ph: 248-6063
glonky@aol.com

Rep. Daniel Hurwitz (R)
P.O. Box 585
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645-0585
Ph: 547-3520

Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
P.O. Box 185
Cut Bank, MT 59427-0185
Ph: 873-4452

Staff

Matt Morrison, Executive Director
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

World Trade Center West

2200 Alaskan Way, Suite 460

Seattle, WA 98121

Ph: (206) 443-7723 FAX: (206) 443-7723

matt@pnwer.org

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